

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

16. (new) A process for producing food and beverage products, using malt sprouts of a controlled particle size.

17. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 16, wherein the malt sprouts of controlled particle size are either uncrushed or crushed at a low degree of crushing.

18. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 16, comprising the further step of

immersing the malt sprouts in a liquid to allow components of the malt sprouts to seep out into the liquid.

19. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 18, comprising the step of

removing the malt sprouts after the immersion step.

20. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 18, wherein the particle size of the malt sprouts is controlled to a degree at which the seeping out of the component of the malt sprouts responsible for an unpleasant flavor is limited in

the immersion step.

21. (new) A process for producing food and beverage products, using malt sprouts of controlled particle size, wherein 60wt% or less of the malt sprout are of a particle size smaller than 150 $\mu$ m.

22. (new) A process for producing food and beverage products, using malt sprouts of controlled particle size, wherein the malt sprouts used have a specific surface area of 1.90m<sup>2</sup>/g or less.

23. (new) A process for producing food and beverage products, using malt sprouts of controlled particle size, wherein the malt sprouts used have a bulk density of 0.37 or less.

24. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to any one of claims 16, 21, 22, and 23, wherein the food and beverage product is a beverage product, a food product or an immersion liquid.

25. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 24, wherein the beverage product is an alcoholic beverage or a non-alcoholic beverage.

26. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 25, wherein the alcoholic beverage is beer, happoshu (low-malt beer beverage), liquor, low-alcohol malt beverage, liqueur, whiskey or shochu.

27. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 26, wherein the amount of the malt sprouts used is 0.1 to 30wt% with respect to the amount of the other materials of the beverage other than water and hop.

28. (new) The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 27, wherein the alcoholic beverage is beer, happoshu or low-alcohol malt beverage.

29. The process for producing food and beverage products according to claim 25, wherein the non-alcoholic beverage is a soft drink, a tea beverage or a milk beverage.
30. A food and beverage product, obtained by the process according to any one of claims 16, 21, 22, and 23.